

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds which is obtained by mixing a metal compound having at least three hydrolyzable groups with a given amount of water in the absence of at least one selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base and a dispersion stabilizer and at a given temperature, which dispersoid is characterized in that the given amount of water is at least 1.0 mole but less than 2.0 moles per mole of the metal compound, and the given temperature is a temperature below 0°C.

Claim 2 (Original): A dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds which is obtained by mixing a metal compound having at least three hydrolyzable groups with a given amount of water in the absence of at least one selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base and a dispersion stabilizer and at a given temperature, which dispersoid is characterized in that the given amount of water is at least 0.5 mole but less than 1.0 mole per mole of the metal compound, and the given temperature is a temperature below 0°C.

Claims 3 to 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Original): A dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds obtained by mixing, in the absence of at least one selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base and a dispersion stabilizer and at a given temperature, a partial hydrolysate that is prepared by hydrolyzing a metal compound having at least three hydrolyzable groups in the absence of an acid, a base and/or an dispersion stabilizer and that can be stably dispersed without aggregation in an organic solvent with an amount of water

equal to at least 0.5 mole but less than 2 moles per mole of the metal compound minus the amount of water used to prepare the partial hydrolysate, which dispersoid is characterized in that the given temperature is a temperature below 0°C.

Claim 14 (Original): The dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds of claim 13 which is characterized in that the given temperature is a temperature of -20°C or below.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds of claim 13 ~~or 14~~ which is characterized in that the given temperature is at or below the temperature at which the metal compound begins to hydrolyze.

Claim 16 to 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds of ~~any one of claims 13 to 22~~ claim 13 which is characterized by being obtained by, following mixture of the partial hydrolysate and the water at the given temperature, raising the temperature to the given temperature or above.

Claim 24 (Original): A dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds which is obtained by mixing a metal compound having at least three hydrolyzable groups with a given amount of water in the absence of at least one selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base and a dispersion stabilizer and at a given temperature, which dispersoid is characterized in that the given amount of water is a solution diluted with a hydrocarbon solvent and an alcohol solvent, the diluted solution is added to the metal compound, and the given temperature is room temperature.

Claim 25 (Original): The dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds of claim 24 which is characterized in that the given amount of water is at least 0.5 mole but less than 2.0 moles per mole of the metal compound.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds of claim 24 ~~or 25~~ which is characterized in that the water in the diluted solution has a concentration that is from 40% to 1% of the saturation solubility of water in a mixed solvent of the hydrocarbon solvent and the alcohol solvent.

Claim 27 (Original): A dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds which is obtained by the addition, to a metal compound having at least three hydrolyzable groups, of at least 0.5 mole but less than 2 moles of water per mole of the metal compound, which dispersoid is characterized by having steps in which the water is added in a some of divided portions at a given temperature, which steps include at least one step in which the given temperature is a temperature below 0°C.

Claim 28 (Original): A dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds which is obtained by the addition, to a metal compound having at least three hydrolyzable groups, of at least 0.5 mole but less than 2 moles of water per mole of the metal compound, which dispersoid is characterized by having steps in which the water is added in a some of divided portions, at least 0.5 mole but less than 1 mole of the water per mole of the metal compound being added in a first water addition step.

Claim 29 (Original): The dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds of claim 28 which is characterized by having, after the first water addition step, a step in which the rest of the required amount of water is added at a given temperature, the given temperature being a temperature below 0 °C.

Claims 30 to 42 (Canceled).

Claim 43 (Original): A dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds which is characterized by dispersing stably without aggregation in an organic solvent in the absence of at least one selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base and a dispersion stabilizer, and by having an average particle size in a range of 1 to 20 nm.

Claim 44 (Original): The dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds of claim 43 which is characterized by being monodisperse with a particle size distribution in a range of 0 to 50 nm.

Claims 45 to 53 (Canceled).

Claim 54 (Original): A metal oxide film which is characterized by being formed by coating or spraying, and by having a smooth film surface.

Claim 55 (Original): The metal oxide film of claim 54 which is characterized by being formed by drying at 200°C or below.

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): The metal oxide film of claim 54 ~~or 55~~ which is characterized in that the film surface has an average roughness of 10 nm or less.

Claim 57 (Canceled).

Claim 58 (Original): A metal oxide film which is characterized by being formed on a plastic substrate and by having a carbon content, expressed as an atomic ratio, of 10% or less.

Claims 59 to 64 (Canceled).

Claim 65 (Original): A monomolecular film which is characterized by being obtained by forming a metal oxide film having a smooth surface on a substrate, then contacting the metal oxide film with a metallic surfactant having at least one hydrolyzable group.

Claim 66 (Canceled).

Claim 67 (Original): A monomolecular film characterized by being obtained by using a dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds that is stably dispersed without aggregation in an organic solvent in the

absence of at least one selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base and a dispersion stabilizer, or using a solution containing the dispersoid, to form a metal oxide film on a substrate, then contacting the metal oxide film with a metallic surfactant having at least one hydrolyzable group.

Claims 68 to 70 (Canceled).